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Douglass Boshkoff (1971-1972 Acting; 1972-1976)

Law School Deans

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# I.U. Ponders Law School Question

Bill Pittman

*The News Indiana*

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INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
Maurer School of Law  
Bloomington

# I.U. Ponders Law School Question

*Indpls News*  
9/25/75

By BILL PITTMAN

The News Indiana-Bloomington Bureau  
BLOOMINGTON, Ind. —

The process is known as getting the ducks in order, and it is under way within the Indiana University School of Law.

A contest of administrative wills is brewing between the school at Indianapolis and the school at Bloomington, and the question seems to be whether there shall be two schools, with a single name and divergent policies and philosophies, or a single school.

Even deeper, according to some, the question is whether Indianapolis with its larger enrollment and nearness to the seats of legal power will dominate Bloomington after years of subservience as the "trade school" of the profession in Indiana.

In its last meeting, the I.U. board of trustees took a step to head off the battle by renaming the Indianapolis Law School the Indiana University School of Law, Indianapolis, and altering the diploma to reflect that change. In essence, that created a single school with two sites.

William Harvey, dean at Indianapolis, said, "That was something we had hoped for for years and years. The symbolism of that is important to our institutional integrity. The students and faculty here have been substantially discriminated against in the way they were represented. It is much more beneficial to be represented as the Indiana University School of Law than the Indianapolis Law School."

There has arisen talk of merger — real merger, not mere cooperation.

Douglas Boshkoff, dean at Bloomington, said, "I think Indiana is lucky to have two such schools. Divergence and a measure of competition are healthy. Each school is the product of its environment, and has certain strengths because of that."

Harvey said, "The first question to be answered is not about merger but about the future of legal education in Indiana.

"The future remains to be defined, but we are going to have a first-rate law school second to none. There will not be another law school in the Midwest, not in the nation, that will be able to touch I.U.'s in about 10 years — not Yale or Harvard or Michigan," he said.

Beneath the talk, and behind the obvious manipulations that are under way to change the system, there is the history of Bloomington dominance and its disdain of Indianapolis as a "nuts and bolts" night school.

"Indianapolis a stepchild of Bloomington? Lord yes," said Harvey.

Now, however, Indianapolis has a daytime program that is large and growing, and Harvey boasts of the largest law library in the state and the largest enrollment at about 850 students to Bloomington's 510.

"There was an unusual disparity between the two schools," he said. "That disparity has stopped, and if things continue as they have been, Bloomington will fall in the shadow of Indianapolis."

A "blue ribbon" committee is being formed to study the future of legal education in Indiana at the behest of the I.U. trustees.

Another committee of about 28 lawyers, judges and informed laymen is studying the feasibility of a legal research center near the school at Indianapolis. It is funded by about \$25,000 from the Lilly Endowment. Harvey is executive secretary of that committee.

The possibility grows that there may be two schools under a single dean. That route has been tried before, and came to a dead end as the schools emerged as autonomous units.

Boshkoff, in an alumni association newsletter, has pointed out there is much cooperation between the two schools, and that the committee on reorganization suggested continuation of the separate law schools.